

MISCATORY STUPIDITY.

The Fish's Capacity For Learning Is Painfully Contracted.

Most fishes seek their food by sight, says Professor Edmund Clark Sanford in the International Quarterly, and these do not usually notice it by any other sense. But those that are accustomed to find it by smell seldom pay any attention to it when they merely see it.

Catfish depend principally on the sense of taste, and they seem to taste all over, not only in the mouth, but by the outer skin as far back as the tail fin.

It is uncertain whether fishes can feel pain or not. There is a good deal of evidence to show that they cannot.

A fish that has lost its sight, may learn to avoid an obstacle after swimming against it a single time, but fishes that can see will jump against the plate glass wall of an aquarium day after day, sometimes for a year, in the effort to catch things outside.

The elements of consciousness in the mind of a fish foot up a total "equivalent, perhaps, to the lowest idiosyncrasy measured by human standards." It is possible that the fish's capacity for learning is "about on a level with that of a man in deep sleep or preoccupation."

Birds That Exercise Ingenuity.
Birds building on high trees are not so wary about the concealment of their nests as hedge builders and those that seek the springing corn or grass land for the shelter of their homes, trusting to the loftiness of situation for security.

A nest placed upon the ground is in constant danger of exposure. A browsing animal might destroy it. Then the scythe with one sweep occasionally lays bare one or more nests, thereby endangering the eggs or callow nestlings. This renders the parent birds very wary and causes them to practice great ingenuity in their efforts to protect the young birds.

The skylark has been known to carry its egg or offspring to a place of safety after an exposure of the nest, and it has been said its long hind claw—the use of which has puzzled many naturalists—is specially adapted by nature for more easily grasping and transporting its treasures from the source of danger. When the young birds are too bulky to be thus removed the parent bird carries them on its back, though this mode of removal is a somewhat difficult one.—London Tit-Bits.

Jefferson and the Patent Office.
The first patron of our patent system was Thomas Jefferson, who during three years gave his personal attention to every application for a patent. He used to call the secretary of war and the attorney general to examine and scrutinize with him, and they did it so thoroughly that in one year—the first—he granted only three patents. The very first patent of all was given to Samuel Hopkins in 1790 for pearl ash. Mr. Jefferson held that the patent system was not one for creating revenue, but for encouraging a production of that which is to be of benefit to the whole people. In the first twelve years a single clerk in the state department and a few pigeonholes were all that the business of the office required. Then a Dr. Thornton took charge of it and devoted himself to it as to a hobby.

Spiders Like Music.
A violinist says spiders are notoriously and historically fond of music. At one of his performances the concert hall was made disagreeable by a sudden invasion of spiders, which were drawn by his violin out from the cracks and crannies of the ancient building. They crawled about the floor and on to the stage, and he could see the annoyed audience stamping on the insects. The writer adds that he has known a small garden snake to be attracted by piano playing and a young cat to whisk his tail and prance about most gleefully at the first notes of a French horn. His neck would curve about proudly, his hoofs tread lightly and his ears wag joyously when the tooting began, and he never quieted down till the music ceased.

Peculiar Privileges.
The speaker of the house of commons has several peculiar privileges. Every year he receives a gift from the master of the buckhounds of a buck and does killed in the royal preserves. This custom goes back so far that there is no record of it. Later in the year the speaker receives another tribute from a different source. The donors on the second occasion are the Cloth Workers' company of London, who send to the speaker of the house of commons and to several of his majesty's ministers a generous width of the best broadcloth to be found in England.

Her Audience.
"How are you getting on with your music, my dear?" inquired a lady of her niece.

"Well, of course," replied the niece diffidently, "it wouldn't be proper of me to compliment myself, but some of the neighbors have told me they have stayed awake at night for hours listening to my playing."

The Rule Served Him.
The new boarder had been three weeks in the house. "It is usual," said the landlady, with great delicacy, "for my boarders to pay as they go."

"Oh, that's all right," he replied affably. "I'm not going for a long time."

Sounded Like It.
"What is that piece you are playing?"

"That's Wagner."

"Not the piano is out of tune."

"No, it's the piano."

"With the piano the writing of Wagner is not so good."

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"With the piano the writing of Wagner is not so good."

A Bad Stomach

Lessens the usefulness and mars the happiness of life.

It's a weak stomach, a stomach that can not properly perform its functions. Among its symptoms are distress after eating, nausea between meals, heartburn, belching, vomiting, flatulence and nervous headache.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Cures a bad stomach, indigestion and dyspepsia, and the cure is permanent.

Accept no substitute.

Diplomatic Permanency.

It is likely to be the case in America that as time goes on and our relations with foreign powers become more and more complicated and pressing permanence in consular and diplomatic offices, based upon knowledge and proved fitness, will be the rule. This may mean that it will not be so common a practice to take scholars and authors from private life and place them suddenly in foreign consulates and missions. But even then it is likely that our literature will be enriched by the work of men who have become authors while enjoying the opportunities for new studies and broader observation afforded by the foreign service of their country, so that if hitherto literature has contributed to our diplomacy hereafter we shall see our diplomacy contributing to our literature, as has not infrequently already been the case.—Century.

The Roman Lupetto.

The Roman Lupetto, which is almost indistinguishable from the so called Pomeranian dog, invariably tries to bury or cover over any food given him which he does not like. If fed on a loose drugget he will skillfully cover up the obnoxious food; if the carpet is nailed down so that he cannot do this he goes through the exact process with his nose which would turn over the plate if it were movable. The Lupetto has a general contempt for any but meat diet, and, though he may condescend to accept bread and milk out of deference to his owner (many of them would not make this concession), he is sure to go through the form of protest first.

Birdskin Garments.
Eskimo women wear the most curious kind of underclothing, its peculiarity being that it is made of the skins of birds. These skins, before being sewed together, are chewed well by the women in order to make them soft. About a hundred skins are required to make a shirt, and the labor of chewing the skins which form their garments is quite enough to account for the massive, well developed jaws of Eskimo women.

She Would Have Had Him.
Gladys—Oh, yes, I refused him. I want a man who has known sorrow and acquired wisdom.

Edith—But, my dear, he would have very soon filed that bill if you had accepted him.—Puck.

Hope says to us at every moment.
"Go on! Go on!" and leads us thus to the grave.—De Maitreton.

CHANCERY A-191.
SHERIFF'S SALE. In Chancery of New Jersey. Between Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, complainant, and Martha L. Strydom et al., defendants. Pl. fa. for sale of mortgaged premises.

By virtue of the above stated writ of fieri facias to me directed, I shall expose for sale by public vendue, at the Court House in Newark, on Tuesday, the twenty-seventh day of October next, at two o'clock P. M., all that tract or parcel of land and premises situate, lying and being in the township of Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey:

Beginning on the east side of Broad Street at the northwest corner of lands formerly of Caleb Baldwin, deceased; thence running south sixty-three degrees fifty-nine minutes east ninety-four feet nine inches; thence south seventy-three degrees forty-one minutes east three hundred and ninety-five feet to the Morris Canal; thence up the canal northerly the course thereof three hundred and sixty-five feet seven inches; thence north seventy-two degrees thirty minutes west three hundred and ninety-three feet three inches to Broad Street; thence along the same south thirty-eight degrees eighteen minutes west three hundred and eighty-nine feet three inches to the beginning. Containing three acres and sixty hundredths of an acre, according to a survey made August, 1888, by Van Dyke & Young, surveyors.

Excepting therefrom the following: Beginning at a point in the easterly line of Broad Street at the northerly corner of land of John P. Strydom et al.; thence along his northerly line southerly to the Morris Canal; thence east three hundred and ninety-three feet four inches to the Morris Canal; thence along the line of the same south thirty-nine degrees five minutes west forty-six feet three inches; thence north seventy-two degrees thirty minutes west three hundred and ninety-five feet eight inches to Broad Street; thence along the same north thirty-eight degrees eighteen minutes west three hundred and eighty-nine feet three inches to the place of beginning.

Newark, N. J., September 23, 1903.
WILLIAM G. NICOLL, Sheriff.
DAVID KAY, Jr., Solt.

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ZERO AN ANCIENT TERM.

It Was in Use in Babylon Thirty-six Centuries Ago.

The term zero, which is used to designate a cipher and in meteorology the entire absence of heat in the atmosphere, was, according to a mathematical historian, Moritz Cantor, used by the Babylonians about the year 1700 B. C. This, however, is merely a supposition. It has not been definitely established that zero was in use any earlier than 400 A. D. About this time it was used in India, and several centuries later the Arabs began to employ it. Through the Arabs its use became known to Europeans during the twelfth century. It was not generally adopted in Europe until several centuries later, notwithstanding its great advantages. For a considerable time there were two parties among the European educators. One party, known as the algorists, favored the adoption of the Hindoo system of notation (falsely called Arabic), with its position values, while the other, known as the abacists, favored the Roman notation, without zero or position value.

The general adoption of the Hindoo system was greatly facilitated by the facts that it was explained in most of the calendars for more than a century, beginning with 1300, and that the medieval universities frequently offered courses devoted to the use of this notation.—Chicago Tribune.

An American Waterloo.

Wellington at Waterloo and Meade at Gettysburg each held the highlands against his antagonist. Wellington on Mont Saint Jean and Meade on Cemetery Ridge had the birds-eye view of the forces of attack. The English batteries on the plateau and the Union batteries on Cemetery Heights commanded alike the intervening undulations across which the charging columns must advance. Behind Mont Saint Jean, to conceal Wellington's movements from Napoleon's eyes, were the woodlands of Solgnes. Behind Cemetery Ridge, to conceal Meade's movements from the field glasses of Lee, was a sharp declivity, a protecting and helpful depression. As the French under Napoleon at Waterloo, so the Confederates under Lee at Gettysburg held the weaker position. In both cases the assailants sought to expel their opponents from the stronger lines. I might add another resemblance in the results which followed. Waterloo decreed the destiny of France, of England, of Europe. Gettysburg, not so directly or immediately, but practically, decided the fate of the confederacy.—General John B. Gordon in Scribner's.

Ladies Who Wear Knives.

In early English days knives were worn by Englishwomen in imitation of the anelace, a dagger carried at the girdle. Chaucer speaks of them in the prologue to his "Canterbury Tales." His knives were y-chaped not with brass. But all with silver wrought, full clean and well.

In Ross church, Herefordshire, is a monument to a lady of the Ruddle family, temp. Henry VIII., who wears a purse and a knife. Brand tells us that knives were formerly part of the accoutrements of a bride. In a play, temp. "Edward III.," occurs the passage:

Here by my side do hang my wedding knives.

In the "Archaeologia" Mr. Douce, the antiquary, wrote a paper on this practice of wearing knives by European ladies in the sixteenth century, and an engraving shows a specimen of a case of these wedding knives, dated 1610, which are described as having amber handles and cases of purple velvet embroidered with gold.

Some Pygmy Animals.

A species of dwarf elephant used to live on the island of Malta and in various parts of Italy. Judging from the bones which remain, these animals, about the size of a large sheep, were somewhat numerous. A dwarf elephant is a rarity now and no longer forms a distinct species, but is considered rather a freak.

A very beautiful species of pygmy deer is found on the Sunda Islands. These little creatures are not much larger than a cat, but have all the points of a "well bred" deer.

Among horses Shetland ponies are the pygmies. The ordinary musk of central Africa is a pygmy, or dwarf, of only about twenty inches in height at the shoulder and three feet in length.

Making Sure of Him.

"I think," said the thoughtful mother, "that you ought to object to young Brown paying so much attention to our daughter."

"Why?" demanded the thoughtless father. "He impresses me very favorably."

"That's just it," returned the thoughtful mother. "We must do something to make his ambitious mother think we regard ourselves a little above them so that they are sure of him."

A Hint to Go.

"I have something to tell you before I go," he finally said.

"Is it a long story?" she hastily asked.

"No; it is a very short one."

"Then I think you will just have time," she sweetly said.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Her References.

"I don't like these references," said the housewife.

"Well, mum," returned the applicant for a position, "I didn't write 'em, so it ain't my fault. If you don't like 'em just you go to the people as gave 'em to me an' tell 'em so."—Chicago Post.

A Definition.

"Pa, what is a fray?"

"Why, my son, that is what a person who has never been in a fight calls it."

HEROIC SELF SACRIFICE.

Courage With Which a Young Naval Officer Greeted Death.

"Speaking of heroism," said a navy officer at his club a few evenings ago, "it is rare that such an example is seen as that of Hynson, who was a passed midshipman at Vera Cruz in 1840. It was really more than a bit of heroism; it was fortitude, passive courage, that confronted a peculiar danger, a self sacrifice, that was most conspicuous."

"Our fleet was off the harbor on blockade duty when one day a Spanish merchant vessel managed to slip in without being discovered. Hynson conceived the idea of capturing the vessel by a night attack, and he succeeded in doing so. But as he could not take the vessel out of harbor, for the reason that she was under the close range of the enemy's guns, Hynson set fire to the vessel. In doing so he burned both his arms so badly that he carried them in slings for several days. While in this disabled condition a terrific squall came up and played havoc with several of our little vessels, and the one on which Hynson was serving was capsized. Hynson and one of the other officers managed to get hold of a floating spar, but as it was not sufficient to keep them both afloat Hynson let go his hold and in a few moments sank to his death."—New York Tribune.

Weight of a Growing Child.

The weight of a growing child is the most important index to its general health. The standard of weight for growing children, that usually given by authorities in the matter, is that at five years of age a child should weigh about as many pounds as it is inches high. As a rule, this will not be much over or under forty pounds. Children who come of large parents should weigh something more than that. The rate of increase should be about two pounds for every inch of growth, with a tendency for the weight to exceed this standard proportionately rather than to fall below it. When a child is rather heavier in proportion to its height than this standard it is a sign of good health. If the child is growing rapidly it should not be allowed to fall much below it without being made to rest more than has been the custom before. A deficiency of weight in proportion to height is always an unfavorable sign. Any interruption in the progress of increase of weight, especially during the continuance of growth, must be a danger signal that should not be neglected by those interested in the patient.

Why He Only Ate the Yolk.

An American woman traveling in England stopped one day at a little country house. Chatting with the visitor, the woman of the house told of her difficulty in getting along and of an experience she had had with a boarder. "The first morning this man stopped here," she said, "he began to eat boiled eggs very greedily. Eggs after eggs he ate—three, four, five, six—and it was only the yolk of them that he swallowed; the white he didn't bother with at all."

"When he dug his spoon into the seventh egg my temper got the better of me, and I said in a severe tone: 'Don't you ever eat the white of the egg, sir?'"

"Surely not, my woman," he answered. "The yolk is the bird; the white is the feathers. Would you have me make a bolster of myself?"

Where It Always Rains.

There is a group of islands to the south of New Zealand called the Sisters, or Seven Sisters, which are reputed to be subjected to a practically constant rainfall. The same may be said of the islands and mainland of Tierra del Fuego, save for the difference that the rain often takes the form of sleet and snow. On a line running round the world from 4 degrees to 8 or 9 degrees there are patches over which rain seldom ceases to fall. This is called the "zone of constant precipitation," but at the same time there are several localities along with it with very little rainfall.

Lightning Franks.

"The most beautiful display of lightning or atmospheric electric currents which it was my good fortune to witness," says a resident of Quebec, "was out on the Beauport flats, near Quebec, when two electrically laden clouds, as though two trees, their heads toward each other and their longer branches interwoven, kept on for more than ten minutes, interchanging horizontal flashes of beautifully colored fire, not one of which ever reached the earth, while occasionally a flash would shoot upward as if toward some cloud in that direction."

An Experiment.

"You see," said Cortesuel, "a physiologist once told us that our boy Josh had a remarkable head."

"So you sent him to college?"

"Yes. Now we're waiting to see whether his head is going to turn out to be a congenial residence for brains or just a garden for football hair."—Washington Star.

Her Method.

Stella—So she married him to reform him? How did she begin?

Bella—By spending a lot of money. You know how hard it is for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.—Harper's Bazar.

A Cause For Worry.

A man may go along for fifty years and not be worried much about de hereafter, but de minut de barber finds a bald spot on his head he's got a burden to carry for de rest of his days.—Detroit Free Press.

The end of the self-made man.

The end of the self-made man generally begins at the top and ends at the bottom.—Chicago Record-Herald.

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